## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 00533 110717Z ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 191 AMEMBASSY CANBERRA INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

**UNCLAS MANILA 0533** 

CANBERRA FOR CODEL WOLFF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, MILI, OREP (WOLFF, LESTER), RP

SUBJ: CODEL WOLFF: ADDITIONAL MEDIA REACTION TO MANILA PRESS

CONFERENCE

REF: MANILA 0381

1. IN HIS JANUARY 10 COLUMN ENTITLED QUOTE RP MUCH BETTER OFF WITHOUT US BASES UNQUOTE, TEODORO VALENCIA WROTE AS FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT: CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF'S STATEMENT THAT THE PHILIPPINES SHOULD HELP MAINTAIN AMERICAN BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES IS AN INSULT TO THE INTELLIGENCE OF THE FILIPINOS AND THE WORLD. ONLY AMERICANS WILL BELIEVE HIM BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN CONDITIONED BY AMERICAN MEDIA TO BELIEVE THAT AMERICAN BASES OVERSEAS ARE THERE TO PROTECT PEOPLES WHO ARE HELPLESS. WE FILIPINOS, AND MOST OF THE WORLD, KNOW THAT THE AMERICANS WON'T MAINTAIN A BASE OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES ONE DAY LONGER IF THE AMERICAN GLOBAL DEFENSE PLANS DID NOT NEED THEM THERE. TO PROVE TO CONGRESSMAN WOLFF THAT THE PHILIPPINES DOES NOT NEED THOSE BASES, HE CAN WORK IN THE US CONGRESS TO HAVE THEM DISMANTLED. THAT WOULD BE HIS BEST GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE FILIPINOS. UNCLASSIFIED

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3. THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IS POLITE TO THE AMERICANS.
ONLY INDIRECTLY DO OUR OFFICIALS TELL AMERICANS THOSE BASES
ARE NOT NEEDED BY US. THE CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES,
ON THE OTHER HAND, DON'T HAVE TO USE DIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE.
SO WE CAN SAY IT STRAIGHT THAT THIS COUNTRY WILL BE SAFER,
MORE PEACEFUL AND PROUD OF THE AMERICAN BASES LEFT VOLUNTARILY.

## THAT IS THE BEST THING THAT CAN HAPPEN TO THE PHILIPPINES.

- 4. FILIPINOS LOVE TO SAY WE CHERISH DEMOCRACY BECAUSE THAT IS TRUE BUT OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS MISUNDERSTAND US. THEY INTERPRET THAT TO MEAN BUTTERING UP TO AMERICA OR INVITING THE AMERICANS TO DEFEND US. AFTER PRESIDENT MARCOS TOLD THE AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL TEAM THAT FILIPINOS ARE THE BEST ALLIES OF AMERICA IN THIS CORNER OF THE WORLD, CONGRESSMAN WOLFF ISSUED THAT STATEMENT THAT THE PHILIPPINES SHOULD HELP DEFRAY THE COST OF THE BASES. HE MAY HAVE ISSUED THAT STATEMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF HIS CONSTITUENTS IN NEW YORK WHOSE MINDS HAVE BEEN CONDITIONED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES. BUT IN THE PROCESS, HE LEFT A RESIDUE OF ILL WILL. WE ARE NOT THAT STUPID, MR. WOLFF. THAT STATEMENT MAY BE GREAT INSOFAR AS SOME AMERICANS ARE CONCERNED, BUT WE SEE THROUGH IT.
- 5. WE FIND THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION EASIER TO TALK TO AND WE UNDERSTAND THEM. THEIR MESSAGE IS SIMPLE -- IF WE SHOULD EVER MISUNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER IN THE FUTURE, WE SHOULD SIT DOWN AND TALK ABOUT THOSE MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. THE AMERICAN WAY, WHICH WE THOUGHT ALL ALONG WE UNDERSTOOD, IS DIFFERENT. OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS THINK FOR US AND TELL US WHAT WE WANT, THEN PROCEED TO ARGUE AGAINST IT. THEY HAVE TWO SIDES TO EVERY ARGUMENT, THEIR SIDE AND THE WRONG SIDE. END TEXT. UNCLASSIFIED

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## Message Attributes

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